

In re Appln. of Vander Aa et al.
Application No. 10/068,017

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of lithographic printing comprising the steps of:

(i) unwinding a web of an imaging material from a supply spool, the imaging material comprising (1) a flexible lithographic base having a hydrophilic surface and (2) an image-recording layer comprising hydrophobic thermoplastic polymer particles which is removable in a single-fluid ink or can be rendered removable in a single-fluid ink by exposure to heat or light;

(ii) wrapping the imaging material around a cylinder of a printing press;

(iii) image-wise exposing the image-recording layer to heat or light;

(iv) processing the image-recording layer by supplying single-fluid ink, thereby obtaining a printing master;

(v) printing by supplying single-fluid ink to the printing master which is mounted on a plate cylinder of the printing press; and

(vi) removing the printing master from the plate cylinder.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1 wherein the image-recording layer is a non-ablative image-recording layer which is removable with the single-fluid ink before exposure to heat or light and is rendered less removable by exposure to heat or light.

3-5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the supply spool is located within the plate cylinder.

7. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein step (vi) is carried out by winding the printing master on an uptake spool which is located within the plate cylinder.

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8. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein the flexible lithographic base comprises a plastic support, a thin aluminum support or a laminate of plastic and thin aluminum.

9. (Original) The method according to claim 1 wherein the single-fluid ink is an emulsion comprising:

- (a) a continuous phase comprising an acid-functional vinyl resin; and
- (b) a discontinuous phase comprising a liquid polyol.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 9 wherein the vinyl resin is a branched acid-functional vinyl resin having a number average molecular weight of between about 1000 and about 15000 and a weight average molecular weight of at least about 100000.

11. (New) The method according to claim 2 wherein the supply spool is located within the plate cylinder.

12. (New) The method according to claim 11 wherein step (vi) is carried out by winding the printing master on an uptake spool which is located within the plate cylinder.

13. (New) The method according to claim 9 wherein the supply spool is located within the plate cylinder.

14. (New) The method according to claim 13 wherein step (vi) is carried out by winding the printing master on an uptake spool which is located within the plate cylinder.

15. (New) A method according to claim 14 wherein the vinyl resin is a branched acid-functional vinyl resin having a number average molecular weight of

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between about 1000 and about 15000 and a weight average molecular weight of at least about 100000.

16. (New) A method of lithographic printing comprising the steps of:

- (i) unwinding a web of an imaging material from a supply spool, the imaging material comprising (1) a flexible lithographic base having a hydrophilic surface and (2) an image-recording layer comprising aryl diazosulfonate which is removable in a single-fluid ink or can be rendered removable in a single-fluid ink by exposure to light;
- (ii) wrapping the imaging material around a cylinder of a printing press;
- (iii) image-wise exposing the image-recording layer to light;
- (iv) processing the image-recording layer by supplying single-fluid ink, thereby obtaining a printing master;
- (v) printing by supplying single-fluid ink to the printing master which is mounted on a plate cylinder of the printing press; and
- (vi) removing the printing master from the plate cylinder.

17. (New) The method according to claim 16 wherein the image-recording layer is a non-ablative image-recording layer which is removable with the single-fluid ink before exposure to light and is rendered less removable by exposure to light.

18. (New) The method according to claim 16 wherein the supply spool is located within the plate cylinder.

19. (New) The method according to claim 16 wherein step (vi) is carried out by winding the printing master on an uptake spool which is located within the plate cylinder.

20. (New) A method according to claim 16 wherein the flexible lithographic base comprises a plastic support, a thin aluminum support or a laminate of plastic and thin aluminum.

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21. (New) The method according to claim 16 wherein the single-fluid ink is an emulsion comprising:

- (a) a continuous phase comprising an acid-functional vinyl resin; and
- (b) a discontinuous phase comprising a liquid polyol.

22. (New) A method according to claim 21 wherein the vinyl resin is a branched acid-functional vinyl resin having a number average molecular weight of between about 1000 and about 15000 and a weight average molecular weight of at least about 100000.

23. (New) The method according to claim 17 wherein the supply spool is located within the plate cylinder.

24. (New) The method according to claim 23 wherein step (vi) is carried out by winding the printing master on an uptake spool which is located within the plate cylinder.

25. (New) The method according to claim 21 wherein the supply spool is located within the plate cylinder.

26. (New) The method according to claim 25 wherein step (vi) is carried out by winding the printing master on an uptake spool which is located within the plate cylinder.

27. (New) A method according to claim 26 wherein the vinyl resin is a branched acid-functional vinyl resin having a number average molecular weight of between about 1000 and about 15000 and a weight average molecular weight of at least about 100000.